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THE AMERICAN STATE REPORTS. Containing the Cases of General Value and Authority. \* \* \* Decided in the Courts of Last Resort of the Several States. Selected, Reported, and Annotated by A. C. Freeman, Vols. 120-124. San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Company, 1908-1909.

As this set of reports grows older its value increases. Not only is the same good judgment shown in the selection of cases for the later volumes as has been shown in their selection for the earlier ones, but the complete system of reference to notes and decisions to be found in preceding volumes makes it possible for the busy lawyer to trace the development of principles in a surprisingly short time. In nearly every volume, moreover, are to be found new subjects discussed both in the decisions and in the notes. It may not be correct to say that every title of the law is treated in each volume, but we believe that in almost any two or three of them will be found some decision throwing light upon nearly every question that is likely to confront the legal investigator.

Where there is criticism of a decision it is usually well supported by authority and judicious reasoning which ought to be of great assistance to a brief-maker.

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DIGEST OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COURTS of last resort of the several states from 1904 to 1909 contained in the *American State Reports*, Vols. 97 to 120 inclusive, and of the notes to cases reported therein. By Edmund Samson Green: Vol. 4, San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Company, 1909, pp. xxxiii, 1598.

Since Green's three volume digest of the *American State Reports* appeared in 1904, twenty-eight volumes (97-124) of the series have been published, and this fourth volume of the digest covers twenty-four of these additional books.

It is a well-made digest of these volumes and is also an index to the valuable notes contained in them. If one has the *American State Reports* this digest will be necessary to complete their usefulness to him, and even if he is not so fortunate as to have the series, the digest will be found to be of value, for nearly every title is covered and, as the cases selected are important, the searcher for precedents is referred to recent important decisions on almost every legal topic. A complete list of titles and a table of cases indicating volume and page of the official report where each case may be found—make the digest as complete as may be desired.

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THE LAWS OF ENGLAND, BEING A COMPLETE STATEMENT OF THE WHOLE LAW OF ENGLAND. By the Right Honourable the Earl of Halsbury, and other lawyers. London: Butterworth & Co. Agents for the United States: Cromarty Law Book Co., Philadelphia, Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Co., Rochester, N. Y. Vols. 2, 3, 4, and 6. (1908-1909).

The publishers announce that the publication of volume V, which is devoted entirely to Company Law, has been deferred owing to the delay that occurred in the passing of the Companies Act. In the four volumes noted in our caption (2-6) seventeen titles are fully treated (*Bankruptcy—Conflict of*

*Laws*) and the treatment of *Constitutional Law* is commenced in Volume VI.

As announced by the projectors in the first volume, this work is to form a series of treatises composed by learned lawyers. We expressed some doubt a year ago as to the possibility of compressing such a series of treatises into twenty volumes, and it certainly seems now that more than twenty will be needed for the completion of the work. However that may be, the character of the contributors and the showing thus far made by them indicate that the matter of quality is considered by the editor as of first importance. The American lawyer who wishes to thoroughly investigate a subject will find the work very useful to him, despite the fact that an undue prominence may seem to him to be given to some titles. He may be surprised at first sight that *Carriers* is disposed of in 99 pages, while *Burial and Cremation* and *Commons and Rights of Common* are given 175 pages each, and *Charities* over 250.

Some titles the average American lawyer will perhaps ignore, but if subsequent volumes are up to the standard of those that have so far appeared, he must, we believe, consult the work before he can rest assured that his own work has been thoroughly done. The contributors are, as a rule, men who have given special attention to the topics of which they treat. The citation of authorities seems to be complete in the sense that the latest decisions are noted, though we believe that some of the earlier cases of importance are occasionally omitted, apparently for the reason that the principles they announce are embraced in later statutes, or are fully discussed in later decisions. The matter of the articles is well arranged and the law is stated clearly, concisely and, apparently, accurately. The complete tables of cases and statutes, and the full indices and tables of contents add greatly to the utility of the work. It is an undertaking that ought to receive encouragement from the American Bar.

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THE LAW OF AUTOMOBILES, SECOND EDITION. By Xenophon P. Huddy, LL.B., of the New York Bar. Albany: Matthew Bender & Company, 1909, pp. xxvi, 364.

While most of the litigation concerning automobiles simply requires the application of old principles of law to new facts, it is convenient to have at hand a book like this referring to decisions in this special class of cases. The book is designed for laymen as well as for lawyers and may be read with profit by owners and operators of what Dr. Schouler refers to as "this costly toy, which only the few can afford to keep and own." ("Ideals of The Republic," p. 277).

The first edition of Mr. Huddy's book was issued in 1906, since which time a large number of cases concerning automobiles have been decided, and these are referred to in this edition. The former edition contained a useful compilation of the laws of the several states on this subject, but there is no such compilation in this edition, although some of the statutes are referred to in the foot-notes. Uniformity in legislation upon a matter of such general interest is certainly desirable, and a statement of the leading features of the statutes, with a discussion of them, would probably lead to this uniformity; hence it seems that a fuller consideration of the statutes would have increased the value of the work.